

of which I afterwards observed at work. It is rather curious, that as these birds were constantly flitting backwards and forwards over the low wall, they must be quite incapable of judging of distance or thickness even after the shortest circuitous route, for otherwise they would not have made so many vain attempts.

UPPUCERTHIA DUMETORIA. *I. Geoffr. & D'Orb.*

PLATE XIX.

Uppucerthia dumetoria, *J. Geoffr. & D'Orb.* Ann. du Mus. i. 393 and 394.

Furnarius dumetorum, *D'Orb.* MS.

Uppucerthia dumetorum, *D'Orb. & Lafr.* Mag. de Zool. 1838, p. 20.

This bird is an inhabitant of extremely sterile regions. I saw several at the Rio Negro, but at Port Desire they were, perhaps, more numerous. I did not observe it near Valparaiso, in Central Chile, but I procured specimens of it from Coquimbo, where the country is more desert. It frequents open places, in which a few bushes grow. It hops very quickly, and often flies quietly from one place to another. It may often be seen turning over and picking dry pieces of dung. It is a remarkable circumstance, that in the three specimens which I brought home, from different localities, namely the Rio Negro, Port Desire, and Coquimbo, the beak varies considerably in length: in that from Port Desire in Patagonia it is three-eighths of an inch shorter than in that from Coquimbo in Chile; whilst the Rio Negro specimen is intermediate between them. Mr. G. R. Gray has pointed out to me that Latham long since observed a great variation in the beak of the Patagonian warbler, *Opetiorhynchus Patagonicus*.

1. OPETIORHYNCHUS VULGARIS. *G. R. Gray.*

Uppucerthia vulgaris, *D'Orb. & Lafr.* Mag. de Zool. 1838, p. 23.

This bird in general habits has several points of resemblance with the *Furnarius cunicularius*, but differs in some other respects. Its flight is somewhat similar, but it shows two red bands on its wings, instead of one, by which it can be distinguished at a distance: instead of walking it only hops; it feeds entirely on the ground, and in its stomach I found scarcely anything but Coleopterous insects, and of these many were fungi feeders. It often frequents the borders of lakes, where the water has thrown up leaves and other refuse. It likewise may be met with in all parts of the open grassy plains of Banda Oriental, where (like the *Uppucerthia* at the Rio Negro) it often turns over dry dung. Its note is very like that of the *F. cunicularius*, but more acute, and consists of a shrill cry, quickly reiterated so as to make a running sound. I was informed that, like that bird, it builds its nest at the bottom of a deep burrow. This species

is common in La Plata, the Falkland Islands, and Tierra del Fuego; in the latter it frequents the higher parts of the mountains, or those exposed to the western gales, which are free from forests, for it is a bird that exclusively lives in open countries and on the ground. I believe it is not found in Chile; nor is it common on the coast of Patagonia. This species in its habits is very different from the three following closely allied ones, since the latter never, or most rarely, leave the sea beach, whilst this bird, excepting by chance, is never seen there, but always in the interior country. Nevertheless with this marked difference in habits, (there are several other points beside that of the station frequented), if the preserved skins of *O. parvulus* and *O. vulgaris* were placed in the hands of any one, even perhaps of a practised ornithologist, he would at first hesitate to consider them distinct, although upon closer examination he would find many points of difference,—of which the much greater strength of the feet and the greater length of the tarsus are conspicuous in those species, which live amongst the stones on the sea beach.

2. OPETIORHYNCHUS PATAGONICUS. *G. R. Gray.*

Patagonian Warbler, *Lath.* Syn. iv. p. 434.

Motacilla Patagonica, *Gmel.*

Motacilla Gracula, *Forst.* Draw. No. 160.

Sylvia Patagonica, *Lath.* Index, ii. 517.

Furnarius Lessonii, *Dumont.*

— Chilensis, *Less.* Voy. de la Coqu. i. p. 671, n. Tr. d'Ornith. p. 307, pl. 75, f. 1.

Opetiorhynchus rupestris, *Kiull.* Mem. de l'Acad. St. Petersb. i. p. 188, pl. viii.

Uppucerthia rupestris, *D'Orb. & Lafr.* Mag. de Zool. 1838, p. 21.

This bird is extremely common on the sea shore of all the bays and channels of Tierra del Fuego; on the western coast it is replaced in Northern Chile by the *O. nigrofumosus*, and in the Falkland Islands by the *O. antarcticus*. As the habits of this species and those just named are quite similar, I shall describe them all together under the head of *O. nigrofumosus*. A specimen of *O. Patagonicus* from Chiloe has a bill rather more than two-tenths of an inch longer than in those from Tierra del Fuego; but as no other difference can be perceived, I cannot allow that this is a specific character any more than in the case of the *Uppucerthia*.

3. OPETIORHYNCHUS ANTARCTICUS. *G. R. Gray.*

Certhia antarctica, *Garn.* Ann. des Sc. Nat. 1826.

Furnarius fuliginosus, *Less.* Voy. de la Coqu. Zool. i. p. 670.

Patagonian Warbler, *Lath.* ♀ in Dixon's Voy. App. No. 1, 359 and pl.

This species inhabits the Falkland Islands. My specimens were procured at